

The Built Environment Selected Writings

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CHAPTER 10

STUDY ON THE ATTRIBUTES OF SOCIAL FACILITIES IN PROMOTING SOCIAL INTERACTION AMONG RESIDENTS: CASE STUDY OF NEIGHBOURHOOD COMPLEX, PRECINCT 16 PUTRAJAYA

Mansor Ibrahim, Muhammad Ali Abdul Rahman and Muhammad Hanif Morshidi

ABSTRACT

There are various approaches in planning to achieve sustainable development, which are sustainable economy, environment and social. The key to achieving sustainable development is by balancing these aspects. The evaluation on whether a social environment is sustainable is subjective, but it is primarily important. Due to the growing concerns when it comes to sustainable development and as a result of the sensitivity on the needs and significance of human development in the development of Malaysia, the concept of holistic development land use planning was adopted through the Total Planning and Development Doctrine (TPDD). The doctrine, which was endorsed by the Federal Government of Malaysia in 1997, has been adopted and applied in the planning of Putrajaya and one of the methods used in adopting the doctrine is by building a neighbourhood complex for the residents. Therefore this study attempts to understand the function of the neighbourhood complex in promoting social interaction in the neighbourhood and its relation to the TPDD. Through studying the design, functions, activities, utilization, occurrence of interactions in the neighbourhood complex, and the effectiveness of the complex in promoting interaction among residents, the study can identify whether that the social facilities provided are in accordance to TPDD, and whether the complex can promote social interaction among residents. Observation of the complex's facilities and surroundings was done and questionnaire survey was conducted to 60 samples which represented the Precinct 16 population. The findings show that the neighbourhood complex did promote social interaction it is also identified that social interaction occurred at the neighbourhood complex. Three recommendations are made to improve the neighbourhood complex roles in promoting a higher degree of social interactions.

INTRODUCTION

Malaysia has undergone a lot of development phases and plans as a developing country, so do development planning. The development planning in Malaysia underwent significant role changes, even more fundamental changes occurred in the function of planning. In the first phase, the role assigned to planning remained narrowly confined to forward capital budgeting for government services. During the following phase, the role of planning was extended to a more wide ranging, pursuit of economic growth. In The third phase, planning was given an instrumental role in the projected restructuring of the economic